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- (e) Abortion.
- (f) Celibacy.
- (g) Abstinence.
- (h) Birth control.
- (i) Certain social customs.
- (j) Prolonged lactation.
- (k) Hypogamy.

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Of the positive checks, war is becoming a rare phenomenon these days and starvation and famine though in a mild form does affect the birth-rate in the Jammu Province and the Frontier Districts while the Kashmir Province is in this respect better situated. As regards disease this check also receives full play in Jammu Province where Plague cuts off the natural increase to a great extent and malarial fever is responsible for considerable mortality and is thus unfavourable to fertility. In Kathua and other malarial localities most of the deaths are due to the malarial fever and the surviving population is reduced to a considerably low pitch of vitality which makes the sufferers an easy prey to other diseases. The venereal diseases act as another powerful positive check by causing premature death of the sufferers and leaving their children to propagate misery and further suffering.

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As regards the preventive checks female infanticide which was much in vogue amongst the Rajputs is considerably reduced—thanks to the measures taken by His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur to stamp out this inhuman practice from his territories. Abortion is not practiced by the people as a means of checking larger number of births but is only resorted to prevent illegitimate births which the society regards as an unpardonable sin. Again celibacy and voluntary abstinence being against human nature play a very inferior part in limiting births and the Neo-Malthusian methods of "Birth Control" are very little known in the rural areas not to speak of their being put into practice by the uneducated villagers who is so reckless about protection of children. Confidential enquiries made regarding the sale of rubber goods from private practitioners and Chemists and Druggists who stock these articles only go to show that even in the cities the use of these methods is practiced on too small a scale to have any appreciable result. The Customs Department which was also requested to supply the figures of import of these articles regretted that separate figures were not available. The only preventive check which has proved highly effective in controlling the birth-rate in the advanced countries is almost absent in the State.

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As regards social customs of hypogamy which forbids the marriage of a girl with a man of a social group equal to or inferior to her and forces her to marry a man of a superior group is completely absent in the State while practice of prolonged lactation which results in decreased fecundity being within the knowledge of common people does act as a very mild preventive check.

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The "postponement of marriage" especially in the case of girls acts as a powerful check in restraining births but this check also has had very little play in India where marriage amongst the Hindus being a religious necessity enjoined by the Shastras is universal and the practice of marrying girls before puberty resulting in high birth-rate was universally recognised. Now by the passing of legislative enactment within the State the age of marriage has been raised to 18 for boys and 14 for girls which it is hoped while preventing much misery consequent upon deaths of child-wives and of children produced by them, will tend of acting as a check favour the growth of population by preventing deaths.

4[D]n population -- Analysis

an unequal number of families in different groups. Had the table shown details year by year or by equal age-periods we would have been more sure of our ground. Instead of having the group 20-29 it would have been better to have quinquennial age-groups 20-25, 25-30 and so on, as then it would have been possible for us to see whether 20-25 would not be more suitable age for husbands than 15-19. The old Shastric period of Brahmacharya also points to the suitability of the 25th year when the marriages of men were generally celebrated after they had completed their studentships. We should not, however, be over-enthusiastic in building conclusions just now on insufficient materials which should be tested by subsequent investigations of similar nature.

141. **Size of Family by duration of Marriage.**—Table VII shows the effect of duration of period of marriage on fertility of the family for important castes of each religion and for purposes of detailed comparison it is further necessary to work out the details for the same numbers of different castes. Out of the large number of castes tabulated in the main table only eleven important castes have been singled out for showing effects and some useful results about fertility which are detailed in the sub-joined table.

Duration of present marriage in years.	AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN ALTHOUGH FOR THE MARRIAGE.											
	Brahmins	Kashmiri Pandits	Jats	Chamars	Bengal Rajputs	Kashmiri Muslims	Indians	Arabs	Pathans	Gujars	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Below 10	..	175	264	177	186	164	183	164	139	184	297	164
10 years	..	207	176	314	413	389	36	360	179	314	186	409
Over 10 and under 20	..	106	417	364	381	314	125	349	339	467	331	573
Between 20 and 35	..	443	524	685	682	476	623	536	436	570	686	513
35 years	..	337	516	665	474	557	149	653	695	..	722	599
35 and over	..	410	544	616	588	1,578	689	547	585	689	697	586

142. **Table VIII: Proportion of Sterile Marriages.**—Sex Table VIII deals with absolute figures of sterile and fertile marriages with reference to the duration of married life, and the age of the wife at marriage.

The marginal table has been prepared from Table VII and shows the proportion of sterile and fertile marriages per 100 of total marriages, for different durations of marriage periods. It will at once be noticed that the sterility is highest or fertility lowest

Age of wife at marriage.	Proportion of marriages per 100 marriages.								
	0-4		5-9		10-19		20 and over		
									
10	..	61	36	9.4	67.4	5	97	1.9	98.1
15	..	36	40	18	36	2.6	97.3	7.4	92.6
15-19	..	36	66	5	56	29	96.7	3.3	96.7
20-24	..	35	70	4	56	5	96	3.9	96.0
25-29	..	68	36	5	56	29	97.1	2.9	97.1
30 and over	..	35	40	5	56	5	96	2.9	96.7
Total	..	36	40	7.9	59.9	2.6	96.9	3.1	96.9

cent, to 21 per cent, while if the wife is married after 25 sterility is again found to increase. The cause of high childlessness at 15 and 16 is also to be partially

proportion of sterile and fertile marriages per 100 of total marriages, for different durations of marriage periods. It will at once be noticed that the sterility is highest or fertility lowest when the duration of marriage period is below 5 years. Even under the group 0-4 it will be apparent that when the wife's age is 13 or 14 the sterility is high but between 20-24 the proportion of sterile mothers falls considerably from 61 per

TABLE IX: AGE OF MOTHER AT FIRST BIRTH

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sought in the fact that in most of the cases although the marriage ceremonies have been celebrated the real consummation of marriage is put off by some years especially when the husband is young and engaged in studies. The tendency amongst the educated parents to marry their sons after completion of their educational careers is on the rise and if in some exceptional circumstances the marriage is celebrated earlier there is a strong desire to put off the consummation till the boy is fixed up in life. The childlessness is gradually on the decrease as the period of married life increases till after completion of 15 years of marriage the sterility is reduced to below 4 per cent. (ranging from 1.4 per cent. to 3.5 per cent.). In the marriage duration group 5-9 sterility is at the minimum when the wife is married at the age of 20-24 years while in the groups 10-14 and '15 and over' the minimum is shifted to the age 14. It is generally observed that the postponement of marriage age of females beyond 25 generally increases sterility while the best fertility is exhibited by wives married between 15-24. That fertility increases with the increase in the period of duration of marriage is also sufficiently established by the statistics contained in the last two columns of the above table.

143. Table IX: Age of mother at first birth.—Table IX Part A which has been prepared from the cases of completed fertility only shows the age of the mother at first birth for different castes. The figures indicate that out of a total of 3,035 mothers only 19 were below thirteen years and 20 became mothers at the age of 13-14 years which proves that motherhood at the age of less than fourteen years is growing exceedingly rare as the proportion of such mothers per 1,000 works out to 6 and 7 mothers only. The higher groups 14-15, 15-16 and 16-20 respectively contribute 22, 58 and 154 mothers to every thousand mothers while the last group (20 and over) that is when the age of the mother is 20 years and over contains 753 or say $\frac{1}{4}$ of mothers. The figures would seem to point to a healthier state of affairs and if these statistics possess the necessary degree of reliability it may be concluded that although above 50 per cent. marriages in the State and about 75 per cent. amongst the Hindus and the Sikhs are celebrated before the bride's age reaches 19 years as has been shown in connection with Table IV, actual motherhood in 75 per cent. cases starts at 20 years and after and consequently the dangers of early cohabitation are now being gradually eliminated as 20 years is not insufficient age for conception in a hot country like India where girls mature earlier than is the case in the cold countries. The inset table which has been extracted from the Sex Table IX presents the results for a few important castes of each religion for the same number of mothers i. e., 1,000 mothers to enable the comparisons of like quantities for the

AGE OF MOTHER AT FIRST BIRTH.

Religion and Caste	Below 13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-20	20 and over
A. Hindu.						
Brahmins	11	....	56	41	362	530
Kashmiri (Hindu)	16	....	35	16	100	773
Kshatri	....	....	....	100	578	522
Chamars	....	....	55	57	300	587
B. Muslim.						
Kashmiri	6	5	19	66	136	571
Pathans	....	5	....	37	176	582
Gujars	5	....	19	50	300	585
Sikhs	11	....	4	....	47	538
Bohras	....	....	....	....	31	568
C. Jadhav	5	....	....	5	19	585
D. Sikh	16	35	19	16	300	580
Grand Total	6	7	100	100	1000	1000

SEX TABLE VIII

PROPORTION OF FERTILE AND STERILE MARRIAGES.

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Age of wife at marriage.	DURATION OF MARRIAGE YEARS.							
	0-4		5-9		10-14		15 and over.	
	Fertile.	Sterile.	Fertile.	Sterile.	Fertile.	Sterile.	Fertile.	Sterile.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PART A.								
12		1	0	1	10	---	607	0
14	0	---	0	---	12	---	1,201	17
15 to 19	12	0	10	1	37	0	4,900	60
20 to 24	0	1	0	---	0	---	1,000	40
25 to 29	11	1	0	---	0	---	1,117	20
30 and over	0	1	10	13	113	10	794	64
PART B.								
12	000	497	1,200	100	2,497	00	4,510	97
14	000	1,000	1,000	210	4,000	100	10,000	100
15 to 19	2,007	2,100	11,000	770	10,107	000	50,000	100
20 to 24	1,000	000	2,000	100	2,000	100	4,700	100
25 to 29	000	100	700	70	000	00	1,070	00
30 and over	010	100	000	00	000	00	1,100	00

SEX TABLE IX

AGE OF MOTHER AT FIRST BIRTH (COMPLETED FERTILITY CASES).

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Race or Religion.	AGE OF MOTHER AT FIRST BIRTH.					
	Below 10	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over
	2	3	4	5	6	7
Male	0	0	10	00	100	000
Female	0	---	---	---	10	0
Indian	---	---	---	---	---	---
European	---	---	---	---	---	---
Arab	---	---	---	---	---	---
Chinese	---	---	---	---	---	---
Japanese	---	---	---	---	---	---
Other	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total	---	---	---	---	---	---
Male	10	10	00	100	100	1,000
Female	0	---	---	---	---	---
Indian	---	---	---	---	---	---
European	---	---	---	---	---	---
Arab	---	---	---	---	---	---
Chinese	---	---	---	---	---	---
Japanese	---	---	---	---	---	---
Other	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total	---	---	---	---	---	---
Male	10	10	00	100	100	1,000
Female	0	---	---	---	---	---
Indian	---	---	---	---	---	---
European	---	---	---	---	---	---
Arab	---	---	---	---	---	---
Chinese	---	---	---	---	---	---
Japanese	---	---	---	---	---	---
Other	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total	---	---	---	---	---	---
Male	10	10	00	100	100	1,000
Female	0	---	---	---	---	---
Indian	---	---	---	---	---	---
European	---	---	---	---	---	---
Arab	---	---	---	---	---	---
Chinese	---	---	---	---	---	---
Japanese	---	---	---	---	---	---
Other	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total	---	---	---	---	---	---